

# University of Lowell

## Office of Public Relations

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### FIRST "LOWELL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL HISTORY" SET FOR MAY 8-9

LOWELL, MASS. - The first "Lowell Conference on Industrial History," sponsored by the University of Lowell, Lowell National Historical Park, and the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, will be held May 8-9, 1980, at the University of Lowell.

The theme of this initial conference, "The Social Impacts of Industrialization," will be discussed by leading scholars from around the country, focusing on labor, immigration, women and industrialization, and comparative aspects of the Industrial Revolution in Europe and America.

There will also be a special presentation on Lowell, Massachusetts, one of the most important industrial cities in U.S. history and site of a new national park being developed in a unique urban setting amid the red brick mills, canals, and multi-ethnic heritage of Lowell.

A highlight of the two-day conference is the public forum scheduled for Friday evening, May 9, at which U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Oscar Handlin will be the guest speakers.

The history conference opens Thursday, May 8, at 2:30 p.m., with two presentations on the topic of "Changing Values in Response to Industrialization: Europe and America." All of the scholarly sessions will be held in the University of Lowell's O'Leary Library, located on Wilder Street in Lowell. Moderated by Thomas Leavitt, Director of the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, this session features Professors Tamara Harevan of Clark University and William Lazonick of Harvard University. Harevan is the editor of the Journal of Family History and wrote, with Randolph Langenbach, Amoskeag: Life and Work in an American Factory City

Thursday evening the focus is on Lowell National Historical Park, with a discussion and slide presentation by Lewis S. Albert, Lowell National Historical Park Superintendent; Fred Faust, Executive Director of the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission; and Dr. Patrick Mogan, Superintendent of Lowell Public Schools and generally considered the person most responsible for Lowell's revitalization. This part of the program is planned as a dinner session at the Speare House Restaurant in Lowell.

Three major discussions are planned for Friday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Professor Ronald Shatz of Wesleyan University and William Mulligan, assistant to the Director of the Regional Economic History Research Center at the Eleutherian Mills--Hagley Foundation in Greenville, Delaware. Their subject will be "Workers' Adaptation to Changing Work Processes." Mulligan will discuss the mechanization of the shoe industry in Lynn, Massachusetts.

At 10:30 a.m. the topic is "The Effects of Industrialization on Women and the Family." Professor Mary Blewett of the University of Lowell will talk about "Women in the Shoe Industry in 19th Century New England," and Thomas Dublin, history professor at the University of California, San Diego, will speak about Lowell's women workers in the mid-1800's. Dublin is the author of Women At Work, a new book based on his Lowell research. Blewett, a former president of the Lowell Historical Society, contributed a chapter to the most recent history of Lowell, Cotton Was King.

"Migration, Ethnicity, and the Process of Urbanization," is the subject of the final session at 1:00 p.m., moderated by Professor Charles Carroll of the University of Lowell.

University of Minnesota Professor John Modell will examine "rural depopulation and economic change in the Rhode Island countryside" in the late 19th century, while Stephan Thernstrom, history professor at Harvard University, talks about assimilation and pluralism in urban communities.

Friday's program at the University of Lowell finishes with a general discussion of the topics of the day with University of Lowell history department chairman Richard Derry, Harvard's Oscar Handlin, and all of the participants.

The Lowell Conference on Industrial History concludes with a public forum, at 7:00 p.m. Friday, in St. Anne's Episcopal Church on Merrimack Street in downtown Lowell.

President John B. Duff of the University of Lowell will make the introductory remarks and Senator Paul Tsongas, a Lowell resident, will be the first speaker. The keynote address will then be given by historian Oscar Handlin, author of many books, including Boston Immigrants, which was awarded the Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association, and The Uprooted, a classic study of the American immigration experience.

For registration forms write to Professor Oliver Ford, LCIH Chairman, University of Lowell, One University Avenue, Lowell, Massachusetts 01854, or call the University of Lowell Public Relations Office at 452-5000, extension 2219.